

New Hampshire
State Board of Education
Minutes of the February 15, 2012 Meeting

AGENDA ITEM I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the State Board of Education was convened at 9:00 a.m. at the Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Chairman Lyons presided.

Members present: Fredrick J. Bramante, Jr., Helen G. Honorow, John E. Lyons, Jr., Tom Raffio, John R. Rist, and William Walker. Also in attendance were Virginia M. Barry, Commissioner of Education, and Paul K. Leather, Deputy Commissioner of Education. James E. Schubert was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

AGENDA ITEM II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

William Walker led the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV. OPEN BOARD DISCUSSION

A. High School Math Preparation for Colleges and Work Environments Update on Math Task Force – Paul Leather introduced Christine Downing. Christine said that feedback and comments from Board members and others have been included in Appendix B of the Final Report of the New Hampshire State Task Force on Mathematics Instruction. The Task Force will be meeting on February 22nd to discuss the next steps. There will be a public release of the report at the New Hampshire Math Conference scheduled for March 23. There are sessions being scheduled throughout the state to discuss this report and there will be a presentation at the Superintendents Conference in June. Board members expressed concern that New Hampshire is last place in the United States in math in grading practices and want to be sure that when students graduate from high school they do not have to take remedial math when entering college. Board members wondered if math should be taught every year but the financial impact on schools is a concern. It is difficult finding math teachers right now. Chairman Lyons would like a public statement issued in partnership with Paul Holloway that the colleges and the Department are working together.

B. Common Core Standards – Joseph Miller from the Department updated the Board on the Common Core Standards. The State Plan will be released in early March. There are five one-half day workshops in March connected with the release of NECAP data, and another one and one half day workshop in the North Country at the end of March.

C. State Board Section on Website – Tom Raffio said that the website is looking good.

D. Credentialing issues – Fred Bramante said that Daphne Kenyon worked hard on getting the mission and vision statement adopted by the Board. He would like to see the Vision Statement placed on the wall in the State Board meeting room. John Rist said he had voted against alternative certification regulations.

E. “Brain Power” Initiative – Fred Bramante said he had attended a hearing before the House Education Committee on this subject. Rep. Murphy sponsored this bill. Tom Raffio said that at 4 pm today there is a Discussion and Briefing on Aligning Employer Needs with Higher Education at the Holiday Inn that Rep. Nancy Stiles will moderate the presentation and discussion. This is a discussion on the important interactions between developing a highly skilled workforce and a state’s economy.

Chairman Lyons said that the Board had received a commendation from Early Learning N.H. as an Early Learning Champion. It is “awarded for your demonstrated belief that the healthy development of children provides a strong foundation for health and competent adulthood, responsible citizenship, economic productivity, strong communities, and a sustainable society. We all benefit when we give children the right start. Your vital role in communicating the importance of the early years is improving public knowledge and the lives of children across the state.”

AGENDA ITEM V. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Arts in Reach – Virginia Parks Skevington, Executive Director of this program, met with the Board and presented a power point presentation. The Arts In Reach program empowers teenage girls through mentoring and the arts. AIR provides afterschool and school vacation programs in the arts for teens (ages 13-18) in Rockingham and Strafford Counties. AIR offers unique experiences by collaborating with professional artists and cultural institutions. The staff and leadership recognizes that art is a vehicle to engage youth in activities that will increase their self-esteem. Programming incorporates the community through service projects and field trips to local cultural centers.

Girls can be encouraged and inspired when they are provided with a nurturing and creative atmosphere that is respectful of their voices, supportive of their ideas, and responsive to their developmental needs. AIR introduces teen girls to healthy adult role models.

Commissioner Barry said that the Department is preparing a RFP for 21st Century Learning and these funds would be accessed through the schools. This organization might be able to access some of these funds to help their program.

B. Update on Adult Education – Art Ellison, from the Bureau of Adult Education, updated the Board on adult education. Adult Education programs provide classes, individual tutoring, counseling and a supportive atmosphere for adults returning to school to gain a high school diploma/GED (High School Equivalency) certificate or to learn English as a second language. Mr. Ellison submitted a fact sheet with his presentation: Total enrollment for adult education services is 8,082, Students between the ages of 16-24 is 2,625, earned high school credential (GED or High School Diploma 1,329; and Students learning English as another language 2,295.

C. Student/Franklin School Board – SB-FY-12-09-005 – Chairman Lyons asked if the parties would like this hearing held in nonpublic or public session. They elected to hold the hearing in public session. The parents of the student, Superintendent Maureen Ward, and Matt Upton, Attorney for the Franklin School Board, were present. The issue is that the parent, on behalf of the student, filed this appeal of a determination by the Franklin School Board relative to academic credit. According to the Hearing Officer, the sole issue in this case is whether the student should receive credit for a computer-based geometry course. Each party presented testimony.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by John Rist, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommendation.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: John Rist – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; William Walker – Yes; Fredrick Bramante – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes; John Lyons – Yes.

Chairman Lyons asked Commissioner Barry to follow up with the Superintendent of Schools to be sure the student would be supported in all possible ways to complete the course competencies.

D. Public Hearing – Ed 507.21 and Ed 614.11, Library Media Specialist – Chairman Lyons opened the hearing at 11:00 a.m. These rules set out the certification and teacher preparation standards for Library Media Specialist (commonly referred to as “school librarian”). The former rules expired on December 6, 2011. This proposal adopts the former rules with changes. The changes that have been made update the standards for the preparation program curricula and reflect best practice. These standards will prepare candidates seeking Library Media Specialists credential and those seeking alternative certificate for this credential. Pam Tinker, who is a Library Media Specialist, testified that a lot of hard work had gone into this rule and is consistent with what is being done. Chairman Lyons closed the hearing at 11:35 a.m.

E. Student/Hudson School Board – SB-FY-11-11-007 – (Withdrawn)
The issue of the appeal is the precipitating event which led to the suspension and accompanying loss of privileges in the the posting of a Facebook remark. The parties resolved the matter.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by William Walker, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer’s Report and adopt the Hearing Officer’s Recommendation

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board, with the Chairman voting.

F. Teacher/Keene School Board – SB-FY-11-12-009 (Withdrawn) –
The issue of the appeal is that a teacher filed this appeal pursuant to RSA 189:14-b from the non-renewal decision of the Keene School Board. The parties have resolved the matter.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by William Walker, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer’s Report and adopt the Hearing Officer’s Recommendation.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

G. Student/Nashua School Board – SB-FY-11-06-015 (Withdrawn) –

The parent, on behalf of the student, filed this appeal of a student expulsion by the Nashua Board of Education. The parties resolved the matter.

MOTION: John Rist made the motion, seconded by Tom Raffio, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommendation

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

H. Teacher/Pembroke School Board – SB-FY-12-08-003 (Withdrawn)

The issue of this appeal is a teacher filed this appeal pursuant to RSA 189:14-b from the non-renewal decision of the Pembroke School Board. The parties have settled the matter.

MOTION: John Rist made the motion, seconded by Tom Raffio, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommendation.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board with the Chairman voting.

I. Teacher/Rochester School Board – SB-FY-12-09-004 (Withdrawn)

The request for a hearing involves the Rochester School Board's denial of a parental request for early admission to kindergarten. The parties have settled the matter.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by John Rist, that the State Board of Education accept the Hearing Officer's Report and adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommendation.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Board members commended Stephen Berwick for his assistance in obtaining an amicable resolution for the due process hearings.

J. Croydon AREA Withdrawal Plan – A vote by the Board on the AREA Withdrawal Plan, which would permit the Croydon School District (the sending district) to withdraw from the AREA agreement with the Newport School District is needed. RSA 195-A:14, VII requires the Board to review the resubmitted withdrawal plan to determine whether the deficiencies have been addressed. If the plan meets the requirements, the Board shall recommend for the adoption of the plan based on the Board's assessment of the plan's feasibility. If the opinion of the Board is that the deficiencies in the proposed plan have not been addressed, then the Board shall recommend against the adoption of the plan and the deficiencies shall be noted. The plan shall be returned for a vote at the school district meeting. The withdrawal plan shall be submitted to the voters in Croydon for their approval at either a regular or special school district meeting. The Board's recommendation shall be reported to the legislative body of the AREA districts. If the Croydon voters adopt the withdrawal plan, by a majority vote, it will no longer be a member of the AREA agreement. There was no one present from SAU #43. Helen Honorow said there are several questions that remain unanswered and that numerous questions from the November meeting that have not been resolved but that the plan meets the statute.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education received the updated Croydon AREA Withdrawal Plan; and further, the Plan be returned to Croydon for a vote at the school district meeting along with the Board's recommendation that the Croydon Withdrawal Plan be rejected by the voters of Croydon due to the deficiencies noted:

1. The liability of the withdrawing district for its share of any outstanding indebtedness of the area in accordance with paragraph V or, if the area was formed by 2 districts, provision for the disposition of property and a statement of assumption of liabilities upon dissolution of the area.
2. A detailed analysis of the financial and educational consequences of the proposed withdrawal.
3. The manner in which the withdrawing district or districts shall provide for the education of all pupils in the withdrawing district or districts and a plan for the education of the pupils in the remaining sending and/or sending districts. This shall include the proposed assignment of pupils and any necessary tuition arrangements or contracts.

VOTE: This was done by a roll call vote: John Rist – Yes; Tom Raffio – Yes; William Walker – Yes; Fredrick Bramante – Yes; Helen Honorow – Yes; John Lyons – Yes.

AGENDA ITEM VI. NEW DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

There was no New Department Business.

AGENDA ITEM VII. LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

A. Adopted Rule – Ed 510, Proceedings and Ed 511, Denial, Suspension, or Revocation for Certified Personnel – A vote is needed by the Board to adopt Ed 510, Proceedings and Ed 511, Denial, Suspension, Or Revocation For Certified Personnel. The JLCAR reviewed the Final Proposal at their January 20, 2012 meeting and approved the rule. The Board may now adopt these rules.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by Helen Honorow, that the State Board of Education adopt Ed 510, Proceedings and Ed 511, Denial, Suspension, Or Revocation For Certified Personnel rule filing notice 2011-139.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Paul Leather mentioned several legislative bills, such as HB 1413, directing New Hampshire to withdraw from the No Child Left Behind Act; HB 1473, relative to the calculation and distribution of adequate education grants; HB 1517, prohibiting the state and any political subdivision from entering any agreement implementing any provision of the No Child Left Behind Act without prior approval of the general court; HB 1607, establishing an education credit against the business profits tax; HB 1713, abolishing the Department of Education and transferring all functions, duties, and responsibilities to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education; HB 1715, relative to authorized regional enrollment area agreements; and SB 372, establishing an education credit against the business profits tax. Mr. Leather mentioned that the committee had voted to suspend the two bills to bar New Hampshire from participating in No Child Left Behind.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. NEW BOARD BUSINESS

- A. Priorities of State Board
- B. Education Reform

These items were not discussed at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IX. COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Barry said she would like the Chairman to sign the Resolution in Support of The New England Secondary School Consortium Policy Framework to move high school redesign forward.

Commissioner Barry mentioned that the House Education Committee would be meeting with Department staff on February 23 at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner Barry said the Department will not submit a request for a federal flexibility waiver but will continue to review the waiver submissions. Commissioner Barry says education needs to market what is going on in the public schools. The Education Commissioner of the States recognition of the New Hampshire Department of Education will help in marketing education. The WMUR program is important to marketing education. The Timberlane video clips interviewing teachers for the NH Task Force on Effective Teaching has been very effective.

Commissioner Barry was invited to The White House to meet with President Obama for an event on state-led education reform efforts.

Commissioner Barry said that there was an issue on Friday and a school had to go into lock down. Several parents called and were concerned about the procedures that were in place. Commissioner Barry has been in contact with Homeland Security and there are emergency plans in place. Ed Murdough is the contact person for the Department.

AGENDA ITEM X. OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XI. CONSENT AGENDA**A. Minutes of January 18, 2012 Meeting**

MOTION: William Walker made the motion, seconded by John Rist, to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2012.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

AGENDA ITEM XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Lyons brought up the Resolution in Support of the New England Secondary School Consortium Policy Framework that the Consortium would like the Chairman to sign. The New England Secondary School Consortium is a pioneering partnership committed to fostering forward-thinking innovations in the design and delivery of secondary education across the New England region. The five partner states of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont believe that the bold vision, shared goals, and innovative strategies will empower us to close persistent achievement gaps, promote greater educational equity and opportunity for all students, and lead our educators into a new era of secondary schooling.

MOTION: Tom Raffio made the motion, seconded by Fredrick Bramante, that the Chairman sign the Resolution in Support of the New England Secondary School Consortium Policy Framework.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by a 5 – 1 vote with John Rist voting in the opposition and the Chairman voting.

Chairman Lyons mentioned the Christa McAuliffe Sabbatical Program. Each year the program, administered by the Charitable Foundation, awards a year-long leave of absence to an exceptional New Hampshire public school teacher. The sabbatical provides the teacher with the time, space, and funding to explore, through a self-designed project, new ideas and ways to enhance classroom teaching. The Chairman has been a member of the committee to choose the candidate. He would like someone from the Board to represent the Board as he will no longer be on the State Board. John Rist said he would be willing to represent the Board on this committee. Chairman Lyons said he would like to see the House and Senate Education Committees meet with the Board, along with the NEA, school kids, and diverse communities.

John Rist would like to have the students involved in “Beautiful Locks” from Londonderry High School do a presentation at the March Board meeting.

Fred Bramante said that being on the Board has been the most important work he has done in his life and feels privileged to be a part of a team and is proud of the Board and the Department.

William Walker said that he wanted to thank each and every one for the opportunity to serve on the Board and to work with all of you.

Chairman Lyons said he enjoyed being on the Board and has absolute confidence in Helen, John, and Tom for future Board meetings.

AGENDA ITEM XIII. TABLED ITEMS

There were no Tabled Items at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM XIV. NONPUBLIC SESSION

The Board did not go into Nonpublic Session.

AGENDA ITEM XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: John Rist made the motion, seconded by Tom Raffio, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

VOTE: The motion was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board present, with the Chairman voting.

Secretary